

DEPARTMENT OF RURAL SERVICES

Rural Advocate

2004 Rural Development Conference May 26-28th at Eureka Springs

Arkansas Rural Development Commission

Congressman Marion Berry will kick-off the 2004 Arkansas Rural Development Conference set to run from 11 a.m. on May 26th to 1 p.m. May 28th at the Best Western Inn of the Ozarks and Convention Center in Eureka Springs. This Welcoming Session will begin at 1 p.m. after general registration.

Lieutenant Governor Win Rockefeller will keynote the Awards Luncheon on Friday. In attendance at this luncheon will be awardees of the Cycle III Arkansas Rural Community Grant Awards.

Also featured will be Robert Martinez of Sevier County, who will tell his story of his immigration from Mexico to become a successful farmer

and rural American citizen. He will speak at Thursday's Arkansas Rural Development Commission Luncheon.

In addition to these keynote addresses, the conference will offer three days of panel discussions covering such topics as USDA-Rural Development programs, including Housing, Business, Industry, Wastewater and Utilities; Youth Opportunities in Rural Arkansas; Rural Fire, Emergency and Rescue Services; a Look Towards the 85th General Assembly; and the ever-popular Political Roundtable.

Throughout the three days, participants will also have the opportunity to browse through the conference's exhibit space featuring organizations representing the public, private, and non-

profit sectors that specialize in community, economic and leadership development.

Nightly events will include a Wednesday evening Buffet Dinner and Game Night, including a card tournament, and Thursday evening's tradition—Rural Services' Karaoke and Dancing.

All Arkansans either actively involved with or seeking expanded knowledge of programs and services that are available to assist with local efforts are welcome and encouraged to attend this important event. For more information about the 2004 Arkansas Rural Development Conference, please contact the Department of Rural Services toll free at 1-888-RURAL AR.

Rhonda Davis
Chair
Clinton

Sam E. Angel II
Lake Village

Brenda Beltrani
DeQueen

Judy Brown
Brinkley

Bill Fly
Stuttgart

Cindy Kauffman
Fordyce

Bruce Leggett
Greenbrier

Roy Ragland
Marshall

Larry Teague
Nashville

Darla Verkamp
Charleston

From DRS Director and ARDC Chair

We cordially invite you to attend the 2004 Arkansas Rural Development Conference. Your attendance at this year's conference helps ensure the success and continuation of the many programs we provide.

For your convenience, we have included in this edition of the *Rural Advocate* a conference agenda and registration form. Please act soon and take advantage of this educational, beneficial and always entertaining event.

Thank you for support and attendance at this year's conference in beautiful Eureka Springs, Arkansas. We look forward to seeing you



Rhonda Davis
ARDC Chair



Bruce Campbell
DRS Director

TENTATIVE CONFERENCE AGENDA

Wednesday, May 26th

8:00 a.m.	Exhibitor Set-up
11:00 a.m.	Conference Registration Convention Center Lobby
1:00 p.m.	Welcoming Session —Congressman Marion Berry
1:30 p.m.	Legislative Committee Meeting
1:45 p.m.	Exhibit Break
2:00 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions Session 1: Youth Opportunities in Rural Arkansas Session 2: USDA-Rural Development Single & Multi-Level Housing
4:00 p.m.	Hospitality Suite Opens
6:00 p.m.	Dinner & Game Night

Thursday, May 27th

8:00 a.m.	Conference Registration Continental Breakfast Bar Open
9:00 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions Session 3: Rural Fire, Emergency & Rescue Services Session 4: Hispanic Review Panel
10:30 a.m.	Exhibit Break Legislative Committee Meeting
11:30 a.m.	ARDC Luncheon Keynote Speaker—Robert Martinez
1:00 p.m.	Exhibit Break
1:30 p.m.	Session 5: Looking Towards the 85th General Assembly
3:00 p.m.	Exhibit Break
3:30 p.m.	Session 6: Political Roundtable
4:30 p.m.	Hospitality Suite Opens Dinner on your own
8:30 p.m.	Karaoke and Dancing - Convention Center

Friday, May 28th

8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast Bar Open
9:00 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions Session 7: USDA-Rural Development: Business & Industry, Wastewater & Utilities Session 8: Grant Workshop
10:30 a.m.	Exhibit Break Legislative Committee Meeting
11:30 a.m.	Luncheon and Grant Awards Ceremony Keynote Speaker: Lieutenant Governor Rockefeller

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The objective of the annual event is to provide participants with the opportunity to gain a working knowledge about a variety of programs and services that are available to assist our communities and their leaders with development, planning and revitalization efforts. The Department of Rural Services and the Arkansas Rural Development Commission are committed to providing the most up to date information in a relaxed environment conducive to learning and sharing. If there is one goal of this annual event, it would be to provide our participants with the information and resources to help themselves.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The Arkansas Rural Development Conference is designed for anyone interested in improving the quality of life in Arkansas' rural communities. Its target audience includes state legislators, mayors, county judges, rural fire fighters, local community leaders, and community development professionals who are interested in the future development of the State of Arkansas.

Arkansans with a genuine interest in a better quality of life and who are willing to work for change are strongly encouraged to attend.

CONFERENCE FEE INFORMATION

The conference fee is \$100 per attendee. Spouse/Child(ren) fees are \$50 per person. Exhibit space is \$200 or complimentary with two full paid registrations (any additional person must pay regular fee). The full attendance fee covers all conference materials as well as entertainment activities, receptions, breaks and meals. The registration form and all fees should be received by DRS by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 7th. Cancellations may be subject to a service charge.

Please make checks payable to:

ARDC
101 E. Capitol, Ste. 202
Little Rock, AR 72201

HOTEL INFORMATION

Hotel accommodations start at \$55 per night are not included in the above fee. Arrangements must be made directly with the Best Western Inn of the Ozarks as soon as possible by calling 479-253-9768. Room block release date is April 25, 2004.

**REMEMBER TO TELL THEM YOU ARE WITH THE
ARKANSAS RURAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE.**

Best Western Inn of the Ozarks
207 W. Van Buren
Eureka Springs, AR 72632
479-253-9768 or 1-800-552-3785
www.innoftheoark.com



Registration Form
2004 Arkansas Rural Development Conference
(please copy or cut-out)

Participant Information:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone/Fax: _____ / _____

E-mail: _____

Spouse/Child(ren) Information:

Name(s): _____

Below are sponsored events which will be provided with your paid registrations (\$100 regular, \$50 each spouse or child). For planning purposes, please indicate which events you and/or your spouse/child(ren) plan on attending by placing an **X** in the blank next to each event.

<u>Participant</u>	<u>Spouse/ Child(ren)</u>	
_____	_____	6:00 p.m. May 26th Buffet Dinner and Game Night/Card Tournament
_____	_____	8:00 - 9:00 a.m. May 27th Continental Breakfast
_____	_____	11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. May 27th Luncheon
_____	_____	8:30 - 11:00 p.m. May 27th Karaoke and Dancing
_____	_____	8:00 - 9:00 a.m. May 28th Continental Breakfast
_____	_____	11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. May 28th Award Luncheon

☐ **YES!** My organization has paid two **full** registration fees (\$200 or more) or I am paying one registration fee plus an additional \$100 and would like to reserve a **BOOTH** in the exhibit hall.
I ☐ **will** or ☐ **will not** require electricity for my exhibit. (booth participants will receive final instructions before event)

☐ **No.** My organization will be unable to have a booth this year.

Make all checks payable to:
ARDC
101 E. Capitol, Ste. 202
Little Rock, AR 72201

For Office Use Only

Paid Check No. _____ Amount \$ _____
PO Number _____

DEPARTMENT OF RURAL SERVICES

101 E. Capitol, Ste. 202
Little Rock, AR 72201

Phone: 888-787-2527
Fax: 501-682-6014

PRSRT STD
US Postage
PAID
Little Rock, AR
Permit No. 1270

DRS Staff

Bruce Campbell, Director
Amy Gunnett, Assistant Director
Jean Noble, Grants Coordinator
Lauren Britton, Grants Coordinator
Stephanie Gueck, Administrative Asst.

**"Striving to Enhance the Quality of Life
in Rural Arkansas"**

Grant Resources on Governor's Webpage

Gov. Mike Huckabee announced March 23rd that information on grant programs offered by the state now can be found at one place on the Internet, making these programs more accessible than ever to Arkansans. The state offers more than 150 grant programs.

The site can be accessed by going to the governor's webpage at www.arkansas.gov/governor

The MAP (Mapping Arkansas' Progress) program will allow people to search for grants that already have been awarded. The TAP (Targeting Arkansas' Potential) program will provide a comprehensive list of state grant opportunities and links to federal grant programs. MAP will allow Arkansans to search by county, city, state agency, state grant program or year. Searches can be performed by simply clicking on the desired area. The map version of the search will allow users to view

the grants that have been awarded during the past year in their counties.

TAP will allow people to search the database by key word, agency or by using a grant program name. The federal link will give users the opportunity to learn of additional federal grant opportunities.

"We're eligible for a number of federal grants in Arkansas that we never access just because people aren't aware of the programs that are out there," Huckabee said. "I'm hopeful this new resource will result in more of this money coming to Arkansas. This resource also will encourage Arkansans to work closely with the state's new Washington office, whose mission is to bring more of these grants home." Huckabee noted that the federal Personal Responsibility Act of July 1996 included an innovative concept commonly referred to as charitable choice. The act requires government agencies that accept funds from certain federal funding streams to

contract with faith-based organizations on the same basis as other non-profit service providers. The concept of charitable choice is meant to protect faith-based service providers from discrimination while allowing them to maintain their religious character. The concept also is designed to protect the recipients of services by prohibiting the use of government funds for religious purposes and by requiring that secular alternatives be available to those who don't desire services from faith-based providers.

"This accessibility on the web will be an important resource for both faith-based and secular service providers in Arkansas," the governor said. "For the first time, representatives of these groups will be able to go to one place to find federal, state and private funding options."

Users also will be able to obtain technical assistance, follow links to other sources and receive advice on how to partner with government agencies.